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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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 SECURITY INFORMATION

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 18 April 1952

25X1 SUBJECT General and Military Information  
 from the Elkhovo Area

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
 REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The main thoroughfare in Elkhovo is Georgi Dimitrov Street which begins at the animal markets and extends to the opposite side of the city. The government offices and the newly-opened government stores are located on Georgi Dimitrov Street; the tax collection office is located in a building near the church; the district court is in a large building in the lower part of the city near the Tundzha River; and all other government offices, including the vital statistics department, are located in the municipal building.
2. A brick and tile factory, employing approximately 40 workers, is located at Elkhovo. There are two 2-story hotels in the city near the railway stations: the Moskova (formerly the Splendit) and the Trakya; one has 20 rooms, the other has 25-30 rooms. Elkhovo has two hospitals: one, a large 3-story structure located on the southwest edge of the city, was opened recently; the other building is small; both are open to all patients. Out-patients pay a fixed fee for medical examinations. Doctors work in the hospitals until noon and are free to examine patients at private offices during the afternoon. The Detska Dom (Children's Home), constructed since 1945, is located near the hospital.
3. Consumer goods can be purchased only by presenting coupons obtained from the Komisartevo (Food Commissariat). Flour, oil, etc. are allowed in such insufficient quantities that people are obliged to buy from the black market. Cotton and wool are also obtained through the black market. Farmers sell a kilo of wheat for 20 leva and buy it back for 100 leva; cheese costs 500 leva per kilo; and crude wool costs 200 leva per kilo.

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4. The passenger and freight depots share a rather large 3-story building in the southern (sic)<sup>1</sup> outskirts of Elkhovo. The city is linked directly to Yambol by a single, normal-gauge track; trains leave for Yambol at 6:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.; three trains arrive from Yambol daily. Three bus lines operate from Elkhovo:
  - a. Elkhovo - Voden; at 4:00 p.m. daily;
  - b. Elkhovo - Krushevo; and
  - c. Elkhovo - Topolovgrad.
5. Military units stationed in the Elkhovo area are:
  - a. 2 Infantry Regiment, which arrived from Sliven;
  - b. 6 Artillery Regiment;
  - c. 3 Heavy Machine Gun Battalion; and
  - d. 11 Infantry Regiment, stationed in barracks on the outskirts of Elkhovo at the beginning of the Yambol road; the other units are stationed in barracks located one kilometer south of the city over a large hall.
6. In July 1950, military commissars toured the villages of the Elkhovo area taking a census of carts and horses. The commissars gave the owners record books stating where the horses should be delivered in case of mobilization.
7. Travel permits are not required in areas north of Elkhovo, but documents are necessary for traveling south of the city; civilians are not permitted to enter the last four kilometers of the border area.
8. The headquarters of the militia and secret police is adjacent to the lycee on Popovska street which branches off the main thoroughfare. The building is called Okolisko Upravlenie (County Administration); the uniformed militia occupy the ground floor, the security police occupy the upper floors. Militia patrols of two men armed with automatic pistols patrol the entire city 24 hours a day; militia men are also stationed at road entrances outside the city to inspect travel papers. Curfew hour in Elkhovo is 8:00 p.m.
9. [ ] knew of three border posts: one at Bela Voda, a second at Ambardere, and a third in Dervena village. Approximately 40 soldiers were at each of the guard posts. Machine gun bunkers encircled by barbed wire were located on Chelik, Sarilik, and Chalbaba hilltops between Elkhovo and the border. Barbed wire has been stretched between Sarilik and Chalbaba; underground depots have also been built in this area to conceal military supplies.
10. The Appendix is a sketch of Yambol airfield, showing the following installations:
  1. Two 10-plane hangars;
  2. Two 20-plane hangars;
  3. Repair depot;

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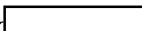
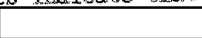
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4. Five concrete aprons;
5. Headquarters;
6. Barracks;
7. Ammunition depot;
8. Barracks;
9. Stable;
10. Hospital;
11. Radio station;
12. Garage;
13. Guard post;
14. Gasoline depot;
15. Railway;
16. Vegetable garden; and
17. Fields.

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1.  Comment: Other sources indicate that the railroad station is located to the north of the city 

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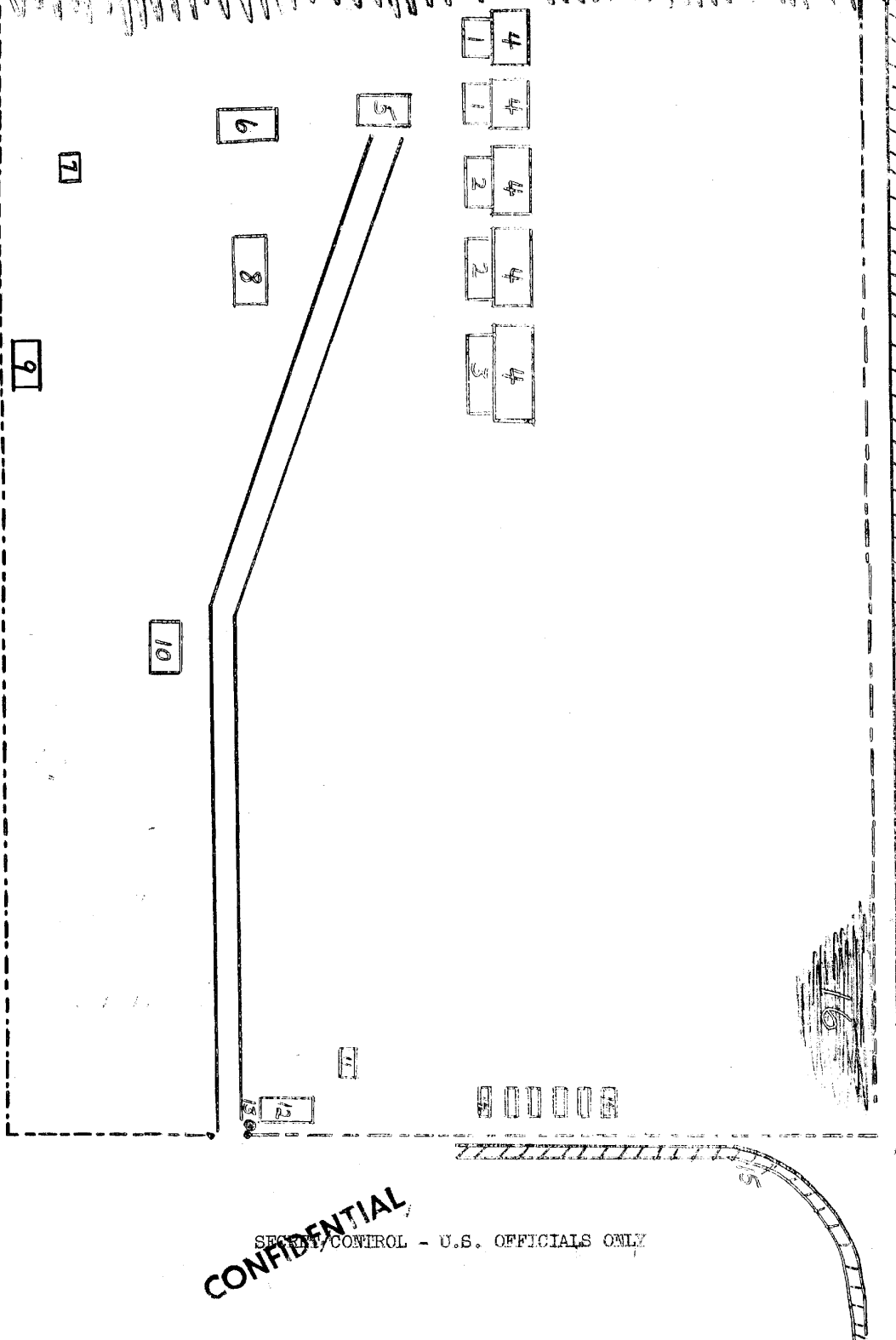
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Appendix

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